

PATENT APPLICATION NO. 09/987,762

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 53394.000517

AMENDMENT IN REPLY TO 04/19/04 OFFICE ACTION

REMARKS**Introduction**

Claims 2-58 and 60-87 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 15-58, 60 and 73-87 have been allowed. Claims 3-14 and 61-72 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). By this amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 3-9 and 61-67, and amended claims 10, 11, 13, 68, 69 and 71. Support for the amendments can be found in the original application. No new matter is presented by the amendments. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter on page 2 of the Action. Specifically, claims 2, 15-58, 60 and 73-87 were allowed. In order to expedite prosecution of the application, the applicant's amendment cancels claims 3-9 and 61-67 and revises dependent claims 10-14 to depend from allowed claim 2 (rather than canceled claim 3), and claims 68-72 to depend from allowed claim 60 (rather than canceled claim 61). Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims now are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Pages 2-4 of the Action reject claims 3-14 and 61-72 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,895,379 to Litchholt, *et al.* ("Litchholt"). The applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is rendered moot by the applicant's amendments. By the amendment, claims 3-9 and 61-67 are canceled, and claims 10, 11, 13, 68, 69 and 71 are amended to depend from one of the allowed independent claims. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections to claims 10-14 and 68-72.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully solicited. Should there be anything further required to place the application in better condition for allowance, Examiner Anderson is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 2 July, 2004

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